



# Huntingdon Rugby Club

## **STAGS HORN**

January 2009

Welcome to the fifth edition of Stags Horn, the increasingly indispensable monthly newsletter for all players, members, parents and supporters within Huntingdon Rugby Club.

We will be producing this in a hard copy, and also an emailable version, so if you haven't signed up for the Stags Social Email yet, email me on [simon.millar@uk.lockton.com](mailto:simon.millar@uk.lockton.com), and I'll sort it. Any news articles from all sections of the Club – Seniors, Youth or Minis – will be welcome, as the intention is to make this a very inclusive form of communication. Photos are also very welcome. We will also be promoting social events, fundraising activities and anything else relevant. Please support all of these – they are all for your benefit, and the benefit of the Club, so get involved.

There will also be space for advertising at very reasonable rates. For a small quarter page display ad (you supply the copy), the cost will be £10 per month, which will go towards paying for the hard copy printing costs. More information on all topics to be found at [www.huntingdonruffc.co.uk](http://www.huntingdonruffc.co.uk)

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL PLAYERS,  
PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE STAGS –  
WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY, HEALTHY,  
PROSPEROUS AND SUCCESSFUL 2009.**

## **STAGS SPORTSMAN'S DINNER**

**FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 7PM**

THERE ARE STILL PLACES LEFT AT THE ANNUAL SPORTSMAN'S DINNER AT THE COMMEMORATION HALL, HIGH STREET, HUNTINGDON, FOR WHAT IS ALWAYS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR.

OUR GUEST SPEAKER IS ASHLEY ROWDEN, ONE OF THE LONGEST SERVING AND LIVLIEST OF PREMIERSHIP REFEREES, WHO HAS AWARDED MORE YELLOW AND RED CARDS THAN ANY OTHER!

SPEAK TO YOUR TEAM CAPTAIN OR AGE GROUP COACH ABOUT GETTING ON THEIR TABLE – TICKETS ARE A VERY MODEST £50 PER HEAD (PRICE HELD FROM 2008), INCLUDING A MAGNIFICENT THREE COURSE MEAL, AND ALL YOUR DRINKS (YES I DID SAY ALL YOUR DRINKS).

TABLE ENQUIRIES TO MARK FOSTER-COLLIER ON [mark\\_fc@hotmail.com](mailto:mark_fc@hotmail.com)

## **The Thoughts of Chairman Roy**

### **RELOCATION**

Readers of the Horn will probably know that we have been in discussion with the management of Huntingdon Racecourse since late February 2008 on the possibility of the club having a licence to play and utilize the clubhouse there.

We have recently reached agreement on the heads of terms and these are now with the racecourse's lawyers who are drawing up a licence which will then be scrutinized by our own solicitors. A planning application will be required, as though our activities fall within the existing use class, the intensification in the use of the site means that we need to get approval from the District Council. The racecourse is submitting an application on behalf of the club.

Both the changing rooms/showers and the kitchen/bar area need updating and refurbishment and costings on these items are being undertaken. A budget/business plan is also being prepared as we would be responsible for the preparation of food, running of the bar and maintenance of the pitches.

When all these elements are ready it is intended to convene an E.G.M. in order to put the proposal to members. The committee hopes that we will be ready for this by Easter 2009.

### **SPORTS QUIZ – A POST MORTEM**

The question master has recently done a simple analysis of the Stags Question of Sport Quiz back in September, which might be of interest to participants and perhaps even to other readers.

There were seven rounds and eight teams. By far the best scores were in the football round, even disregarding the fact that all but one of the teams played their joker in that round (the influence of television and other media was evident throughout).

There was not much between the results of the other rounds, except one. That was rugby which was miles behind all others, though the questions were perhaps a little more difficult. Two tables failed to get a single point in the rugby round, though as one of those was a football table perhaps that is not too surprising. Only one table got the right answer for the maximum width of a pitch and only one knew the number of the law dealing with foul play; nobody at all got the two beaten semi finalists in last years' Heineken Cup.

The crucial round turned out to be golf, in which the winning team (which among others had Dave Moody, Mark Garrood and Mike Frances) had a decisive advantage over its three nearest rivals though not even they knew Sam Ryder's occupation.

A word about the marathon round which asked competitors to match clubs with named grounds. Everybody knew who plays at Pittodrie, Turf Moor, Underhill and Vetch Field and, generally, football grounds were better known than rugby ones – even ones at which Stags have played in recent seasons. Shelford would be interested to hear that The Davy Field is the home of the New York Yankees!

**Roy Shutz**

**Chairman**

## **RFU Grand Draw 2008/9**

Thank you for the great response to our appeal for players and supporters to sell RFU Grand Draw tickets, but we are looking for volunteers to sell them on behalf of the club. Last year, Stags were in the top 30 clubs and constituent bodies in the country in terms of tickets sold, and without really trying we raised a fantastic £2,005, and we are on target to significantly exceed this. The Grand Draw is a major fundraising initiative for the club, and every ticket sold makes a significant contribution to club funds.

There are great prizes available, ranging from £10,000 cash to Cases of beer, and trips to Paris or Rome in the Six Nations, plus much more. We are still looking for more people willing to sell 10 books of tickets over the next six weeks, which means selling less than one book a week, not counting the tickets that you will want to buy for yourself. Remember, 90% of all money collected stays with Stags, so you will be making a fantastic contribution to club funds.

This year there is the incentive of two free tickets to the Summer Ball on June 20<sup>th</sup>, to the person who sells the most tickets, so go on, get out there and shift them! It is an easy thing to do, but very effective. Ticket stubs and monies need to be returned by 15<sup>th</sup> February, so go on, get on with it.

Thanks for all your anticipated support – contact Sid Millar if you can help (before I contact you!)

## **VPs and Social Members Lunch – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

A second Social lunch for VPs and Social members has been arranged for **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January**, again at the Samuel Pepys, before the home game at Towcestrians. Meet at midday, for a 12.30 sit down, and all VPs, Social Members, and former Stags are very welcome.

Trevor Fowler will produce another culinary delight of three courses for us, all for the modest sum of £10 per head, although the exact menu will be a closely guarded secret until the day.

Sid Millar is co-ordinating the lunch with Dave Ruddy and Brian Ablitt, so please contact him initially at [simon.millar@uk.lockton.com](mailto:simon.millar@uk.lockton.com) to book your place. If you cant make the lunch, come down to Hinchingsbrooke for the 2.15 / 2.30 kick off anyway, and give the 1<sup>st</sup> team a shout. All lunchers and supporters are extremely welcome, and actively encouraged – the more, the merrier.

**ADVANCE NOTICE – PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY**

**STAGS SUMMER BALL 2009**

**SATURDAY JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**BURGESS HALL, ST IVES**

**PREPARE TO BE SHAKEN AND STIRRED.....**

## **Youth News**

Firstly, a Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all.

Unfortunately, I couldn't attend the pre-Xmas minis party as I was attending the U14s game but understand this was another successful event and thank you to all who organized this. The Junior Xmas bash was held at the Spiceland curry house and was very well attended including by our honourable President and Chairman both of whom won prizes in the raffle. All monies raised from this event are to be put towards the current U14s tour to Spain at Easter 2010. Whilst it seems a very long way off, these tours need to be well funded and organized so expect a few social events in the coming year organized by Alan Duncan (U14s Social sec) to assist in this. We hope to follow the well trodden path of Pete Michael & Dave Ruddy who have organized a couple of tours to this particular area and whose experiences will be put to good use. I know the guys are extremely excited about this, their 1<sup>st</sup> tour, so if at any event they are at trying to raise funds please support them as best you can.

The Seal of Approval assessment is getting closer (I am being told March) and things are gradually falling in to place. For this I would like to thank all the volunteers and parents for all of their help. Kate Foster-Collier is soon to be the club Welfare Officer once she has attended this month's course and I wish her all the best in this vital role at the club.

There is very little to report on the playing front as we have had a number of games called off, and training sessions during December. On this note could I remind all coaches/parents/ volunteers/ players that the first port of call should you be unsure regarding matches/training cancellations is the Junior Section on Stagschat which is on the club website. Failing this, all details of your relevant coach are also either on the minis section or the junior section of the site.

I am not sure, at the time of going to press, whether there have been any further developments regarding the "move" but rest assured the committee are working extremely hard to make this happen and I would hope if not in this, then at least the next edition of the "Horn" that there will be some positive news.

Once again.

Happy New Year to you all.

**Spencer Burgess**  
**Youth Chairman**

## **Stags Wine and Port**

Stags Magnificent Merlot, Cheeky Chardonnay, Splendid Sauvignon Blanc and Pretentious Port are still all available, even after the Christmas Festivities have finished. All the wine is made by the award winning Concha Y Toro winery in Chile, and the Port is a 2001-3 Late Bottled Vintage from the famous Smith & Woodhouse Port house in the Douro Valley. All supplied on demand by TJ Wines of St Ives, and mixed wine (not Port) cases are available should you so require. Cost - £65 for a case of 12 bottles of wine, or a very cheap £60 for 6 bottles of Port. See Sid Millar for an application form.

## International Tickets

All applicants for Six Nations tickets have been successful, and the tickets, including for the Dublin and Cardiff games, will be forwarded in due course, once we have received them from the RFU.

In addition, we have received a very, small additional allocation from the RFU for both the England v France game on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March, and the Scotland game on Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>. If there is anyone who would like to be considered for these tickets, please contact Sid Millar.

## Stags in the City Lunch – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February

The next Stags in the City Lunch is on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February at the Newman Arms & Pie Shop, Newman Passage, behind Charlotte Street, London W1. Anyone connected with Stags who endures the commute to London, and fancies an afternoon away from the office in convivial company, is most welcome to join the happy band of occasional lunchers. Please contact Sid Millar as soon as possible, if you would like to come along, as accurate numbers are essential for this small and intimate venue.

## Stags Xmas Do – Return to the Dogs - Saturday December 6th

A lovely time was had by all at Peterborough Dog Track for the Christmas outing, where the highlight of the evening was the 'Stags have English Mustard with Stakes', the eleventh race on the card. Whereas at the corresponding event last year, there were a flurry of winners on the Stags sponsored race from our party, it seems that only our greyhound expert, Elliott Baldwin, was successful on this race. This probably explains why no one can remember the winning dog's name, but his athletic prowess is clear for all to see below. As is the greyhound's.

Thanks to everyone who came along, including those who were dragged from their sick beds, and those who just came along for the singsong on the bus.



## Advertising

We are keen to encourage advertising in Stags Horn - £5 for a small advert, £10 for a quarter page advert. Circulation is approximately 250 (and growing) by email and more in hard copy, but all will be solid Stags people, keen to support their fellow club men and women. All ads to me by 28<sup>th</sup> January please for the February 2009 edition. If you have your own business, let the Stags community know about it, so that they can support you.

## Stags Car Stickers

Have you got a Stags car sticker on your vehicle yet? If not, why not?! For only £2 each, you can proudly show your allegiance to the club. Two car family? That'll be only £4 then.

Car stickers are available from Abi Burgess, the club merchandising manager, but will also be available on match and training days. Let's see all the cars in the car park with a sticker, and remind the community just how big and far reaching Huntingdon Rugby Club really is.

# STAGS 100 CLUB

DO YOU WANT THE CHANCE TO WIN MONTHLY CASH PRIZES?

DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF A MAJOR FUNDRAISING EFFORT FOR THE CLUB?

THE STAGS 100 CLUB IS A MONTHLY LOTTERY, WITH A SPECIFIC NUMBER ALLOCTED TO EACH PARTICIPATING PLAYER. MONTHLY DRAWS ARE MADE FOR CASH PRIZES OR £50, £25 AND £10, AND THERE ARE ADDITIONAL SUPER DRAWS IN JUNE AND DECEMBER FOR A FANTASTIC £250.

ENTRY IS ONLY £5 PER MONTH, PER NUMBER, PAYABLE BY STANDING ORDER – YOU CAN HAVE AS MANY AS YOU WANT!

APPLICATION FORMS AND STANDING ORDER MANDATES FROM SID MILLAR – 07717-516315, OR SIMON.MILLAR@UK.LOCKTON.COM

PRIZE WINNERS TO DATE INCLUDE

CHRIS DURRANT, IAN HARBOUR, MARK FOSTER-COLLIER, SPENCER BURGESS, POPPY MILLAR, EMMA NAPIER, TOM McCREADIE, MICK KINASZCZUK, NICHOLAS SAUNDERS, TONY TURNER, JAMES LONGSTAFF, PAUL COLLINS, NEIL GREATOREX AND MANY MORE

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT, AND GOOD LUCK!

[WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.C.CO.UK](http://WWW.HUNTINGDONRUF.C.CO.UK)

## Santa Seen in Huntingdon

Sightings of Santa were reported in various hostelrys across Huntingdonshire just prior to Christmas, bringing tidings of comfort and joy to all. Just in case you don't believe he exists, and shame on you if this is the case, the proof is below. We're not sure where the garden gnome popped up from, but we do know that he shouldn't be allowed to be a spiritual guardian to any Colts in the future.

But we do like the little helpers.....





# Huntingdon Rugby Club

## Stags Social Calendar 2009

<b>Month / Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Saturday 24th January	VPs / Social Lunch	Samuel Pepys
Friday 6th February	Sportsmans Dinner	Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon
Friday 27th February	Stags in The City	Newman Arms, W1
Sunday 1st March	Spring Curry Evening	Spiceland, Alconbury
Saturday 14th March	Race Night	A Surprise
Saturday 4th April	Quiz Night	George Hotel, Huntingdon
Saturday 11th April	John Haldane Memorial Charity Match	Hinchingbrooke
Friday 1st May	Night In a Barn (with Beer, Singing & Dr Busker)	A Barn
Sunday 3rd May	Presidents Day	Hinchingbrooke
May (Date TBC)	Stags Golf Day	Wyboston Lakes GC
Saturday 20th June	Summer Ball	Burgess Hall, St Ives
July (Date TBC)	Strawberry Fayre	Great Raveley

**DEADLINE FOR ITEMS, PHOTOS AND ADVERTS TO BE INCLUDED IN  
FEBRUARY'S STAGS HORN – WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY– PLEASE  
CAN WE HAVE MORE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM TEAM COACHES,  
CAPTAINS, PARENTS ETC**